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LETTERS@METRO.US

REMEMBERING DICK CLARK: 1929-2012 {page 11}

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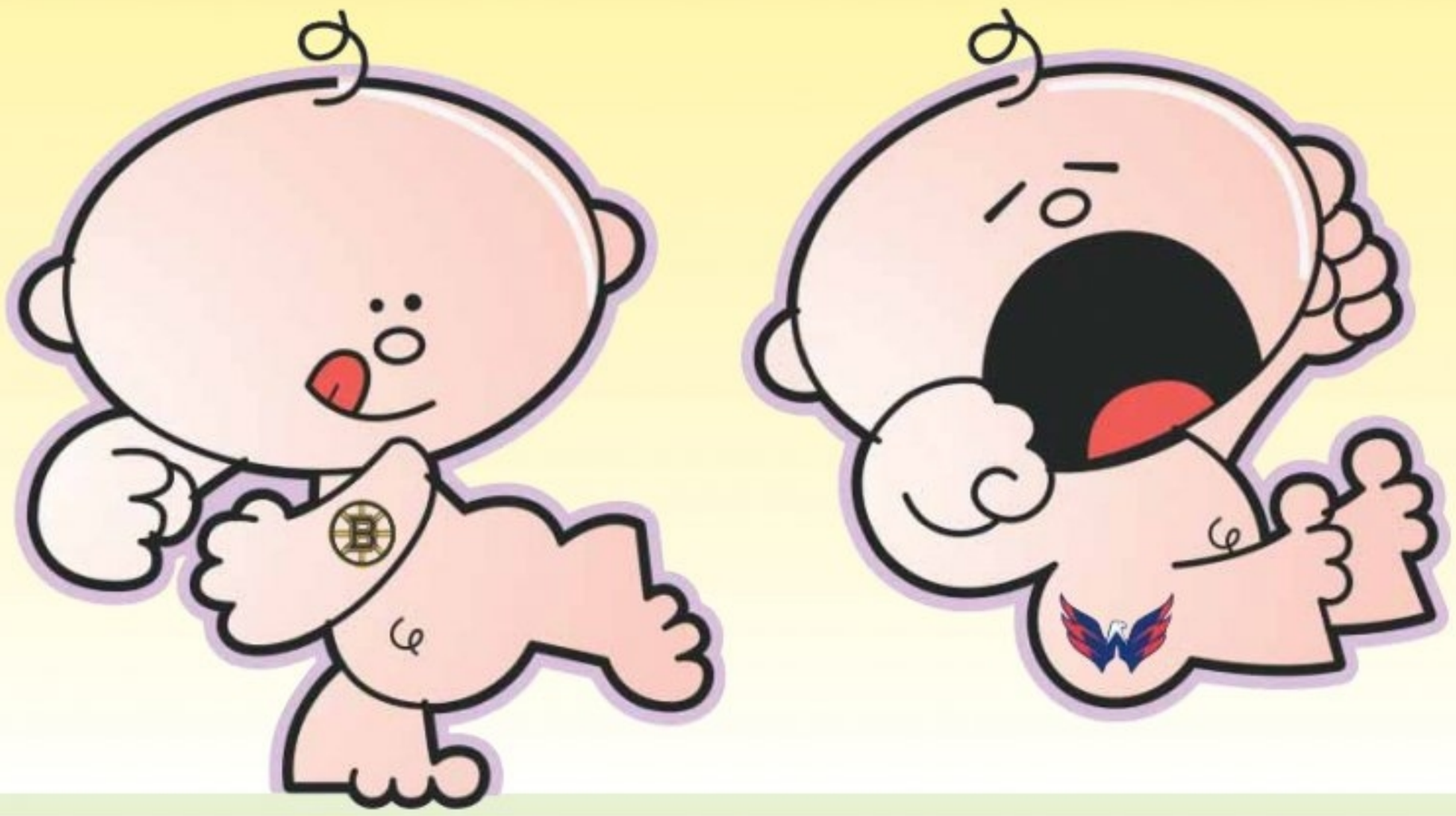
BOSTON
Thursday, April 19, 2012

THERE'S NO CRYING IN BRUINS HOCKEY

After Washington Capitals player taunted Bruins winger Milan Lucic with crybaby gesture, Metro looks at which city should be weeping Here's a hint as B's head into Game 4 of the Stanley Cup playoffs: It's not Boston {page 02}



News

Stray bullets nearly miss 9-year-old

Dorchester boy was in his bedroom when gunfire erupted Bullets puncture shirt, bedding, wall {page 04}

Local bands set to Rumble again

Motherboar, Secret Pockets of Hope and Resistance, Perfect Trainwreck go at it {page 12}

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The crying game

Caps player makes gesture, suggests Bruin Milan Lucic is a crybaby ◗ Really, Alex Alzner? Really? ◗ Metro thinks there's a lot more to cry about if you live in DC or are a Capitals fan

When Metro witnessed Washington Capitals forward Karl Alzner gesture at Bruins star Milan Lucic to insinuate he is a crybaby, we were thoroughly confused.

Even Lucic's teammates were confused.

At only 23 years old, Lucic already has a Stanley Cup ring — something Alzner does not have.

What would Lucic have to cry about?

So while Alzner, who had one fighting penalty in 2011-12, is probably busy preparing for tonight's Game 4 by reading a how-to guide on self-defense, Metro took the liberty of compiling a list to help him understand that he, the Capitals and Washington, D.C., have a lot more to cry about than Lucic, the Bruins and Boston.

First, Bostonians pride ourselves on our driving ability — albeit aggressive. The Capitals star player Alexander Ovechkin may need some parking tips. As previously documented on The Washington Post's D.C. Sports Bog, Ovechkin unnecessarily takes up multiple parking spaces with his Mercedes Benz. What did he do with his money for driving lessons? We know he didn't spend it on music lessons (see his cameo in Russian rapper Sasha Belyi's "Champion" video).

"I don't think he ever cried. I don't think he cried as a baby. He came out an angry baby. He came out with an attitude."

BRUINS FORWARD CHRIS KELLY ON LUCIC, ACCORDING TO COMCAST SPORTSNET NEW ENGLAND.

Also, Massachusetts has 12 voting members in the House of Representatives and the Senate. Washington, D.C., has zero. The roughly 600,000 residents of the district do have a delegate in Congress, but that person cannot vote on laws. That's sort of like winning the Southeast Division four years in a row and never making it past the semifinals. What's the point?

Finally, Boston is a proud hockey town with an Original Six team and six Stanley Cup victories. But despite the Cup banners, the Bruins have at least been to a Stanley Cup finals and won a game. The Capitals, in their 37-year existence, have been to one Stanley Cup championship and they were swept.

Don't cry for Lucic or Boston, Alzner. Cry for yourself.

MICHAEL NAUGHTON
michael.naughton@metro.us

STEPHANIE HARIM

▶ Washington Capitals forward Karl Alzner and his much talked about taunt.

By the minutes

Karl Alzner picked on the wrong Bruin. Alzner has just a fraction of the penalty minutes seasoned fighter Milan Lucic has accumulated

- Alzner collected 29 penalty minutes in the 2011-12 season.
- He had two roughing penalties in separate games in February and March. One was against the Bruins.
- Alzner's one 5-minute fighting major penalty this past season came in January.
- We lost count of all of Lucic's roughing and fighting penalty minutes, but during the 2011-12 season he racked up 135 total minutes.

METRO/MN

In the news

40

Happy birthday, Massachusetts State Lottery. The agency celebrated its 40th year yesterday with a ceremony at the State House. In 1972, residents played $57 million worth of games and cities and towns received $22 million in profits from sales. Now, sales are projected to reach $5 billion and generate $950 million in aid to cities and towns.
METRO/SHNS

Today's local tweet

"#mbta #redline Zombies on train.. 9/10 people deep in their smartphones.. Guys, look outside, it's spring bloom!."

@MYWORLDTWEETS WATCHING HER FELLOW PASSENGERS PAY MORE ATTENTION TO THEIR PHONES THEN ANYTHING ELSE AROUND THEM.

Free rides to Fenway for first 100 fans

BOSTON. Uber Boston is going old school during Fenway Park's Centennial celebration.

This Friday, the luxury livery service is dropping its prices like it's 1912.

The company is offering "horse and buggy prices" to the first 100 people to take an Uber to Fenway on Friday for the game against the New York Yankees.

According to a press release, the first to snatch up a seat in their vehicles will be paying mere pence, as in 30 cents for a ride to the park.

The service uses "sleek, black Lincoln Town Cars" with leather interiors and licensed limousine drivers.

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

▶ Uber Boston team

Using a phone app, Uber tells you where the closest cars are. By plugging in your destination and where to pick you up, one of 25 drivers will arrive with the push of a button. **METRO**

DOT wins bike friendly award

BOSTON. The League of American Bicyclists recognized MassDOT as a "Bicycle Friendly Business" yesterday.

MassDOT received a bronze medal for encouraging a bike-friendly atmosphere for customers and employees.

It was applauded for making "pool" bikes available for employees to ride to a meeting or a work site **METRO**

Sen. Brown launches 'Dog Blog' on website

BOSTON. It's a dog-eat-dog world and Republican Sen. Scott Brown is hitting the campaign trail preparing for the 2012 election with his four-legged furry friends in tow.

In a new section on his campaign website, Brown launched "The Dog Blog," introducing his two family pets, and discussing the companionship they provide in both the Senate and on the trail.

Brown has begun blogging about his two dogs—Snuggles and Koda—and provided two pages worth of pictures with him getting all cuddly with the creatures.

▶ Scott Brown

Brown says on the blog that Snuggles and Koda are "both members of our family, and I am looking forward to their companionship as I spend more time on the campaign trail in Massachusetts in the coming months."

METRO

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‘I thought I was going to die’

Bullet narrowly misses boy, 9, in his room ◗ Family says bedding, boy’s shirt ripped by bullets ◗ Not first time family impacted by violence ◗ Cops investigating

As soon as Sharon Jackson heard the gunshots outside her home Tuesday afternoon she yelled to her children.

“I just said ‘Get down!’” she recounted yesterday.

Her children laid down in the hallway of their second-floor apartment on Ellington Street in Dorchester until the gunfire stopped.

It wasn’t until moments later that Jackson realized just how lucky her family was.

A bullet tore through the front of the triple-decker and went flying through her 9-year-old son’s bedroom, which faces the street.

It also tore through the baggy Celtics jersey and white undershirt he was wearing, Jackson said.

At the moment the shots rang out, Jackson’s son, Preston Jackson-Stephens, was in his room retrieving his glasses case.

“I still can’t believe it. I’m counting my blessings,” she said yesterday, standing in her son’s room where the bullet hole and tear in the Patriots comforter were still visible.

Her son seemed unfazed by what happened, playing throughout the home as reporters asked questions.

He said he could see smoke in the seconds after the shooting.

“I thought I was going to die,” Preston said.

It’s not the first brush with violence for Jackson. She is the sister of Jamal Jackson who was stabbed to death in 1995.

Jackson said she is planning on moving out of the home where she’s lived for nine years.

“I almost lost my son,” she said.

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

▶ Preston Jackson-Stephens, 9, points to the bullet hole in his bedroom wall.

Police investigating

Police said they received a call for shots fired on Ellington Street about 4:30 p.m., Tuesday.

- There they found damage to cars along the street.
- Officers went to Jackson’s home a few hours later on Tuesday night to investigate the stray bullet, but Jackson said it wasn’t until yesterday morning that officers seized her son’s Celtics jersey.
- A police spokesman said the incident it still under investigation.

Quoted

“You could have hurt an innocent person.”
SHARON JACKSON

MICHAEL NAUGHTON
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3718 Washington St.

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109 Blue Hill Ave.

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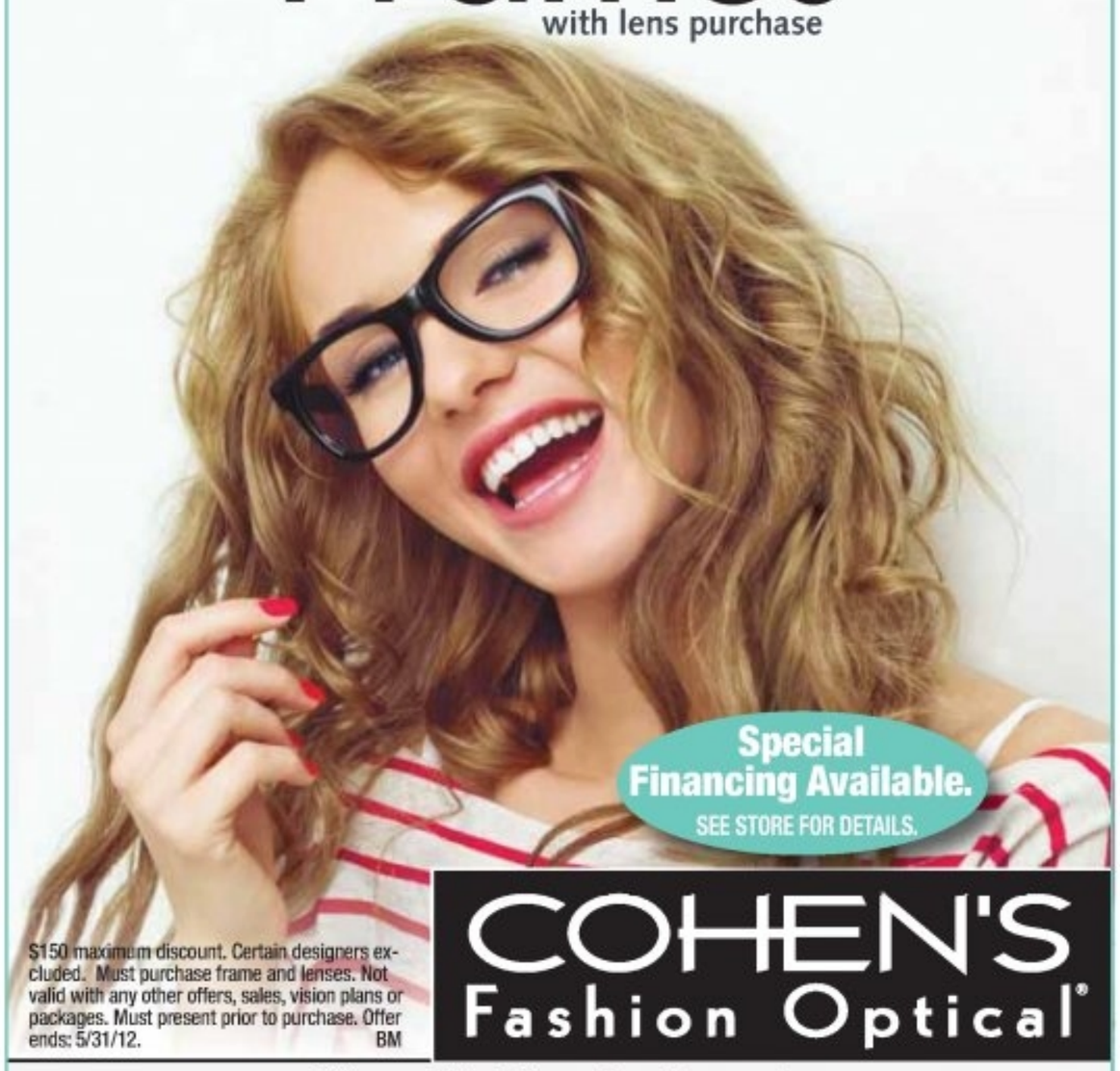

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T musical needs help to keep laughs going

PHOTO BY BENJAMIN SKITKOFF

▶ Rehearsal for the play "T: An MBTA Musical" at the Improv Boston.

A musical about the MBTA is back on track for the second year in a row, but the troupe behind the T tales is asking for the public's help to keep the play moving forward.

Director Jeff Mosser said the outcome of the production value is dependent upon its supporters.

"We need every bit of assistance we can get," said Mosser.

Funds raised will go toward paying for rehearsal space and costumes, he said.

After scooping up awards for originality from Broadwayworld.com, "T: An MBTA Musical" will hit the stage again in June, filled with tales of traversing the underground transit system — this time on a bigger stage with a more elaborate set.

Mosser said the group even added new songs and characters while highlighting current T troubles like service cuts and fare hikes.

But time is running out. The team has less than a week to reach their fundraising goal.

"[Some] things are hinging on the budget," said Mosser.

Last year the show sold out in days with hundreds flocking to see the satire that pokes fun at both the T and the people who ride it.

Musical Director Melissa Carubia said the nearly two-hour play, which follows three T riders underground as they search for a villainous version of the MBTA General Manager, will have talking puppets and cover topics about poor transportation etiquette.

"The show is a little wacky," said Carubia.

"From the people whose bags take up four seats to the ones falling asleep in uncomfortable positions … or cutting their nails; it focuses on all the things you see on the T," she said.

How to help

- To donate to "T: An MBTA Musical," visit indiegogo.com/tthemusical.
- The group has less than a week to meet their fundraising goal.
- The musical will have several shows in June at the Oberon in Harvard Square.
- Those who donate get tickets and "T swag."

STEVE ANNEAR
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News in brief

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

Troopers step up speeding enforcement

BOSTON. More State Troopers will be deployed to work zones on Massachusetts highways to enforce speeding and other traffic laws.

In preparation of National Work Zone Awareness Week, which begins next Monday, MassDOT officials will meet today to warn drivers that those speeding in work areas risk racking up citations.

Officials will also show off new equipment that troopers use to clock the speed of passing vehicles.

In the last two years, dozens of drivers have crashed into construction setups on state highways. The program aims at preventing future accidents. METRO

Full moon for the mailman

NEEDHAM. A Needham woman was arrested this week for allegedly mooning a mailman and then trying to entice him to fight her while holding a baseball bat.

According to Wicked Local Needham, Delma Jeffrey, 32, was arrested and charged with assault with a dangerous weapon and indecent exposure after she allegedly challenged a postal worker to a fight, then proceeded to pull her pants down, exposing her buttocks.

Jeffrey allegedly then grabbed a baseball bat and threatened the worker. METRO

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Obama calls for inquiry as US apologizes over images of abuse

GETTY IMAGES

President Barack Obama wants an investigation into photographs that have surfaced of U.S. soldiers posing with the maimed corpses of Afghan insurgents and says those responsible should be held accountable, the White House said yesterday.

"The conduct depicted in those photos is reprehensible and does not in any way represent the ... standards of the U.S. military," White House spokesman Jay Carney told reporters aboard Air Force One as Obama flew to Ohio for an economic speech.

"The conduct depicted in those photos is reprehensible and does not in any way represent the ... standards of the U.S. military"
WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN JAY CARNEY

Carney said Obama had been briefed on the matter but he did not know whether the president had seen the photos, which were taken in 2010 and published by the Los Angeles Times after the newspaper received them from a soldier.

The incident dealt another blow to already tense U.S. and NATO ties with Afghanistan.

NATO's top commander in Afghanistan, U.S. General John Allen, said an investigation was under way, and U.S. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta apologized "on behalf of the Department of Defense and the U.S. government." **REUTERS**

GETTY IMAGES

BP outlines settlement deal over Gulf oil spill

BP reached settlements to resolve billions of dollars of claims from the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill, and asked a judge for a long delay in any trial over remaining disputes stemming from the disaster.

The London-based oil company still expects under yesterday's settlements to pay $7.8 billion to resolve economic, property and medical claims by more than 100,000 individuals and businesses, though there is no cap.

That payout would make the accord one of the largest class-action settlements in U.S. history.

"Neither side will receive everything it wants," but the settlements are "more than fair, reasonable and adequate" and could avert a decade of litigation, BP and plaintiffs' lawyers said in papers filed in New Orleans federal court. **REUTERS**

News in brief

GETTY IMAGES

Buffet's cancer not life-threatening

NEW YORK. Berkshire Hathaway Inc. Chief Executive Warren Buffett said he has stage 1 prostate cancer and will begin a two-month treatment in mid-July consisting of daily radiation treatments.

Buffett, 81, said in a statement that his condition "is not remotely life-threatening or even debilitating in any meaningful way." Berkshire shares fell 1.5 percent in after-hours trading on the news. **REUTERS**

Breivik: Give me freedom or death

OSLO, NORWAY. Norwegian anti-Islamic fanatic Anders Behring Breivik said yesterday he should be executed or acquitted after killing 77 people last summer in what he said was a battle to defend Europe against mass immigration.

"There are only two just outcomes to this case — acquittal or the death penalty," the 33-year-old said, calling the prospect of a prison sentence "pathetic."

Norway has no death penalty and formal sentencing cannot exceed 21 years, though Breivik could be held the rest of his life if he is judged to pose a continuing danger. He could also be sentenced indefinitely to a mental institution.

"I hope that you don't spend more time on trying to ridicule me," Breivik told prosecutor Inga Bejer Engh at one point. **REUTERS**

Independemic

For complaints, suggestions and digital attaboys, e-mail us at brayden.simms@metro.us.

Forgive us for repeating an obvious sentiment, but Thomas Friedman is a dolt. That's Thomas Friedman the centrist New York Times columnist, who just this week was tagged by blogger Duncan Black as "the one true w—er of the decade." Friedman then set about to prove Black right with an editorial proclaiming the virtues of "shared sacrifice" that also managed to ignore the realities of Washington compromise: One party won't do it.

On Tuesday, Friedman lauded Democrat President Barack Obama for his "significant achievements" and "solid job stemming the economic crisis he inherited." Arguing that "this election has to be about those hard choices" such as "serious fiscal, tax and entitlement reform," Friedman also criticized Republicans like Mitt Romney for their "ludicrous opposition to any tax hikes."

So far, so good. But he then surmises that what this country needs most of all is for New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg to run for president as an Independent!

Friedman suffers from what we'll call the "independemic": The pervasive belief among news pundits that consensus must necessarily be found in the middle. Of course, Republicans have veered sharply to the right in recent years, while Democrats have mostly stayed put, shifting the center to extreme degrees. But the independemicists don't mind: To them, the middle is a virtue in and of itself.

Friedman concedes that "the rich should pay higher taxes" yet he faults Obama for pushing the Buffett tax, "a clever campaign gambit." In doing so, he simultaneously argues that we must reform the tax code by raising rates on the wealthy and that it's bad for the president to do so. Presumably billionaire Bloomberg has a better solution? Good luck convincing the right.

Now, our complaints with Mr. Obama are legion, but Friedman's false equivalency misses the mark: Only one party has become completely ideologically opposed to making the "hard choices" America needs. Democrats, inept as they are, have signalled a willingness to cut spending; Republicans, on the other hand, won't budge an inch on taxes.

In politics, compromise is a must. But with the Republican party turning increasingly and stubbornly to the right, the center simply cannot hold.

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages.

Metropolitik

BRAYDEN SIMMS

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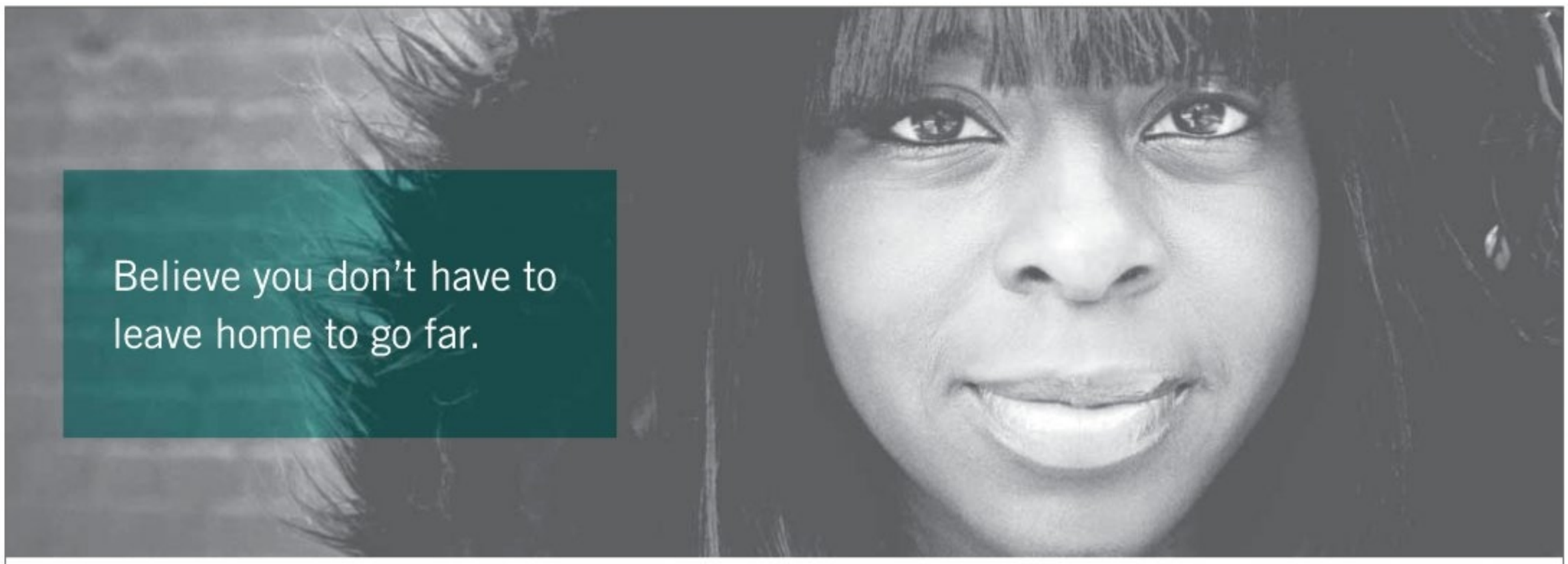
BRENDAN SMIALOWSKI/AFP/GETTYIMAGES

▶ Conservative critics ate Obama alive yesterday.

Dogged

Daily Caller writer Jim Treacher brought attention to a quote from President Barack Obama's pre-Oval Office book "Dreams from My Father" Tuesday night wherein he described his youth in Indonesia. "I learned how to eat small, green chili peppers raw with dinner (plenty of rice), and, away from the dinner table, I was introduced to dog meat (tough), snake meat (tougher) and roasted grasshopper (crunchy)." Obama was just a young boy at the time, but all's fair in love and war — and considering Democrats' focus on Mitt Romney's Seamus the dog story, conservatives gloated with glee. We present some of Twitter fallout:

- "Mango Lassie #ObamaDogRecipes" **@DHUMEO1**
- "German Shephard's Pie #ObamaDogRecipes" **@STEVENBADGER**
- "Chinese Chow Chow Mein #Obamadogrecipes" **@CYNTHIACHEATH**
- "Snickerpoodles #ObamaDogRecipes" **@JIMMIEBJR**
- "Pugs in a Blanket #ObamaDogRecipes" **@HEYTAMMYBRUCE**
- "Great Danishes #ObamaDogRecipes" **@JODISTEPHENS**
- "Beagles with cream cheese #ObamaDogRecipes" **@THENEWJENN**
- "Eggs rover easy #ObamaDogRecipes **@FOXNATION**
- "Pup Tarts #ObamaDogRecipes" **@LIBERTARIAN_ISH**
- "What ever happened to the Blue Dog Democrats? #ObamaDogRecipes" **@JOSHKAIB**
- "Obama is now referring to Romney putting the dog on the roof as Meals on Wheels. #ObamaDogRecipes" **@MICHAELBERRYSHO**



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2

The feed ...

▶ Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

Today, Michael Caine has some simple instructions, Emilio Estevez has a lot of hobbies, Goldie Hawn is rooting for her grandson and Eddie Izzard is through with running shoes.

@themichaelcaine
You are only suppose to have a good time

@EMELIOTHEWAY
Wine making & farming weren't enough, so I HAD to throw in bread making too! 3 day ferment sourdough!

@goldiehawn
Yes! Ryder Russell Robinson just hit a home run first game!!!! Bases loaded! Proud Gogo and Gogi!

@eddieizzard
Just finished 3rd half marathon (barefoot). Feet still holding up well. Just had ice bath

Eddie Izzard

THE WORD

Metro's **Dorothy Robinson** shares her take on the world of gossip @dorothyatmetro dorothy.robinson@metro.us

The stars on their most memorable movie-watching experiences

The State Supreme Courthouse in lower Manhattan was bathed in light on Tuesday night as movie stars (**Catherine Zeta-Jones**, **Michael Douglas**, **Robert De Niro**, and **Dakota Fanning,** to name just a few), business titans (**Ronald Perelman**), media mavens (**Katie Couric**, **Charlie Rose**, **Jared Kushner**), designers (**Tory Burch**, **Donna Karan** and **Rachel Roy**) and **Mayor Michael Bloomberg** kicked off the 11th year of the Tribeca Film Festival at the uber-swank Vanity Fair party.

— With additional reporting by Jeryl Brunner

We asked these celebrities:

What's the first film you remember seeing that had a major impact on you?

"'Mary Poppins.' She was, like, the first superhero woman. She could do everything. She was magical. And there's a little girl named Jane [in the film] so I really liked that too. I can still sing all the lyrics ... but I won't."

JANE ROSENTHAL (FESTIVAL CO-FOUNDER WITH ROBERT DE NIRO)

"I always loved 'To Catch a Thief,' especially for the clothes. It inspired me as a designer. I thought the style was amazing."

TORY BURCH

"My mom took me to 'The Birds' when I was 5 years old. I don't think she knew how gory it was. And I remember running up and down the aisles, screaming. And maybe that explains a lot. A lot."

KATIE COURIC

"'The 5000 Fingers of Dr. T.' was a really big movie for me. It was MGM in the early '50s and a cult classic now. It was about this little boy and his piano teacher; he falls asleep and has a dream in which they build a piano where they had however many children — 5,000 fingers — playing the piano. It's pretty beautiful."

BOB BALABAN

"I remember cutting class one day to see 'Conan the Barbarian.' We snuck into the wrong theater and ended up seeing 'Wall Street.' My friends fell asleep but I was captivated. I came home and started asking my mom to see the business section of the newspaper so I could learn about commodities trading and about stocks and bonds and what the differences were and what yields were."

JOHN FORTE OF THE FUGEES

A Douglas moment

Two celebrities who weren't in a chatting mood? **Michael Douglas** and **Catherine Zeta-Jones**, who looked ravishing in a one-shoulder gray sequined dress and Christian Louboutin heels. "We talked all last night," said Douglas, referring to Monday night when he was honored for his contributions to the theater at the 12th Annual Monte Cristo Awards.

▶ Catherine Zeta-Jones stepped out with husband Michael Douglas on Tuesday night.

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'For now, Dick Clark ... so long'

Music industry impresario **Dick Clark** died of a heart attack yesterday. He was 82. Known for many decades for his youthful appearance, he wore the nickname of "America's oldest teenager," well until he suffered a serious stroke in 2004. Despite the setback, he continued to play a part on the annual televised New Year's Eve celebration he began hosting in 1972. "New Year's Rockin' Eve" was just one of the many TV shows he hosted, including the "Pyramid" game shows, "TV's Bloopers & Practical Jokes" and most famously "American Bandstand," which he hosted from 1952 through 1989.

1: Dick Clark on the set of "American Bandstand" in 1957, the year it first aired nationally.

2: Teenagers on the set of "Bandstand," dancing to the No. 1 single at the time, "Love Is Strange," by Mickey & Sylvia in Philadelphia in 1957.

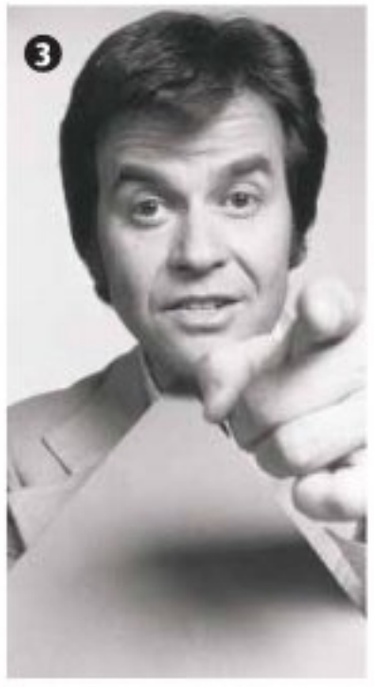
3: Clark took over as host of the hit game show (and its many incarnations over the following decades) "The $10,000 Pyramid" in 1973.

4: Michael Jackson, a longtime friend of Clark's, performed along with the Jackson 5 on Clark's show "The Music Thing" in Los Angeles in 1975.

5: Gene Simmons and **Paul Stanley** of KISS posed with Clark at the taping of the special "American Bandstand's 50th ... A Celebration!" in 2002.

6: Dick Clark with co-host and successor **Ryan Seacrest** during Clark's annual "New Year's Rockin' Eve" show from Times Square in New York City on Jan. 1, 2006. This marked Clark's first television appearance since suffering a stroke in December 2004.

1: HULTON ARCHIVE/GETTY IMAGES
2-4: MICHAEL OCHS ARCHIVES/GETTY IMAGES
5: CBS PHOTO ARCHIVE
5, 6: CAULFIELD/WIREIMAGE
6: RON WOLFSON/CONTRIBUTOR



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MOTHER'S DAY GUIDE

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THE FAMILIAR SOUNDS OF THE RUMBLE

Legendary local Boston music competition features a couple of veterans who have even played together before

If there's something familiar about the two bands that won Boston's annual Rock 'n' Roll Rumble semifinals, it's because both **Garvy J. and Secret Pockets of Hope and Resistance** and **Bow Thayer and Perfect Trainwreck** are fronted by old hands. Still, being experienced doesn't mean the Rumble was easy.

"I wouldn't say it was a breeze," says former Elevator Drops singer-guitarist Josh Hager, the auteur of Garvy J.'s emotive atmospheric pop. "Being in a competition situation does make you refine the details that would normally be overlooked."

But, Hagar says, it's worth it: "We have received more press and attention in one week than we have in the last few years. Plus, we had the opportunity to meet and play with some of the best bands in Boston."

Bow Thayer played the Rumble in the 1990s with his power trio Still Home before forming bluegrass rockers The Benders, and now Perfect Trainwreck.

"We are all older and could give a rat's ass about winning anything," Thayer says. "Funny thing, way back, Josh's band The Elevator Drops asked me to sit in with them at a show at Mama Kin. Here we are, like 17 years later, with many gigs and miles under our feet and fingers, and another Rock 'n' Roll Rumble."

JOHNNY ANGUIS/JDAYCAMP MUSIC

▶ Garvy J.

PAUL JABOVITZ

▶ Bow Thayer, center, and Perfect Trainwreck

DEREK BOUYOUMJIAN

▶ Motherboar

If you go

2012 Rock 'n' Roll Rumble with Motherboar, Garvy J. and Secret Pockets of Hope and Resistance, Bow Thayer and Perfect Trainwreck, and The Grownup Noise
Friday, 8 p.m.
T.T. the Bear's Place
10 Brookline St., Cambridge
$12, 18+, 617-492-BEAR
www.ttthebears.com
www.rockandrollrumble.com

Pop, Americana and hard rock

Motherboar, the semifinal's wild card, rounds out the finals competing lineup. The Rumble's traditional wild card gives one losing band from each leg a second chance. This year's guest band is **The Grownup Noise**, who bowed out of their preliminary night due to unforeseen circumstances.

"They make history as the only band to not perform their preliminary night and go to the finals. They, of course, will not compete," says organizer Anngelle Wood, host of WZLX's local rock show Boston Emissions. "The finals really rounds up what the Rumble was about this year: Representing the many faces of the Boston music community."

LINDA LABAN
linda.laban@metro.us

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Sunday, May 6, 2012

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TV watch list

'Kathy'

TALK. Comedian Kathy Griffin talks (and talks and talks) about her favorite things — namely celebrities — on her very own chat fest. Inviting Hollywood guests would defeat the purpose, so instead she'll have a panel of everyday folks snarking with her on the latest pop-culture news. **Series premiere, 10 p.m., Bravo**

'The Vampire Diaries'

DRAMA. It's a big night for characters who have left Mystic Falls — the few who haven't died, we mean. Elena and Damon take a trip to Denver to check on Elena's li'l bro Jeremy, while hot hybrid Tyler returns to complicate things for Caroline. **8 p.m., The CW**

'Parks and Recreation'

COMEDY. Leslie tries to save the parks department from budget cuts, inadvertently handing ammo to her competition in the race for City Council when Councilman Pillner (guest star Bradley Whitford) slashes funds from a "pet" project instead. **9:30 p.m., NBC**

'The Office'

COMEDY. Andy's position as manager is at risk? You don't say. **9 p.m., NBC**

AMBER RAY

MIKE RUIZ/BRAVO

▶ Kathy Griffin debuts her own talk show tonight.

Must-see

1 'Think Like a Man' Steve Harvey's best-selling book, "Act Like a Lady, Think Like a Man" gets a screen adaptation. Four men try to turn the tables on their lady friends once they discover the women have been using Mr. Harvey's advice against them.

2 'The Lucky One' Ole blue eyes — and by that we mean Zac Efron — is back as an Iraqi war vet who, after three tours of duty, goes in search of a woman whose photo was a good-luck charm for him during combat.

3 'To the Arctic' Meryl Streep narrates this nature documentary about a polar bear and her two cubs making their way through the Arctic wilderness.

4 'The Cabin in the Woods' The critically praised and long-awaited Joss Whedon horror film that is said to be a "game-changer" finally hits theaters after years of delays. In the film, a bunch of teenagers go camping in said cabin in said woods.

10 reasons to head to the movies

ALAN MARKFIELD

▶ Meagan Good, Romany Malco, Regina Gary Owen and Kevin Hart star in "Think Like a Man."

5 'The Three Stooges' The directors of "There's Something About Mary" offer a feature-length film update to the slapstick antics of Larry, Curly and Moe.

6 'Lockout' Guy Pearce stars as an unfairly accused spy given one chance at redemption. The mission? Rescue the U.S. president's daughter, who is being held in an outer space prison that has been overrun by inmates.

7 'American Reunion' Seann William Scott, Alyson Hannigan and all those other actors who didn't have quite as much post-"American Pie" success are back for another installment.

8 'Titanic' 3-D For the 100th anniversary of the "Titanic," James Cameron releases a 3-D adaptation of his 1997 film.

9 'Wrath of the Titans' Sam Worthington and Liam Neeson get all mythological on you again in this sequel to "Clash of the Titans."

10 'Mirror Mirror' Tarsem Singh puts his surrealistic spin on the Snow White legend.

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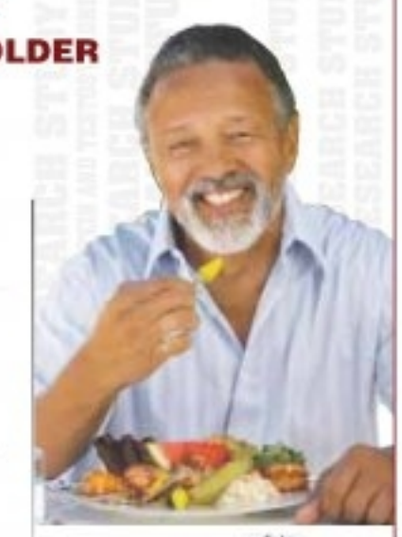

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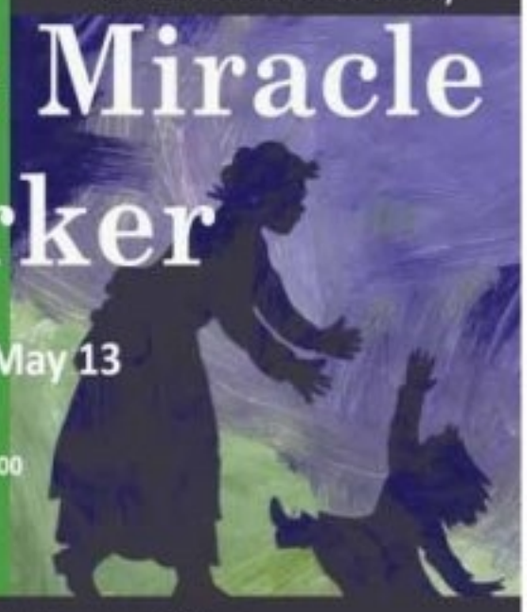

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JOIN IN ON A PICNIC FOR POSTERITY

Family-friendly picnic will celebrate earth, focus on green living and reusing recyclables Event will be part of global effort to break picnic record

Earth lovers of all ages can take part in a celebration of Earth Day this weekend right in the heart of Boston.

The Nature Conservancy is hosting its second annual Picnic for the Planet at the Boston Common on Sunday – Earth Day. The event aims to celebrate the role that nature plays in daily life and attempts to remind people to stop and enjoy being outside by sharing a meal with family and friends.

This year, the event is part of a global effort to break a Guinness World Record for the largest global picnic. It will be held rain or shine.

If you go

Picnic for the Planet
Sunday, April 22, rain or shine
Noon to 3 p.m.
Boston Common Frog Pond
www.nature.org/bostonpicnic

"From the fish in our rivers and seas, to the forests that keep our air and our drinking water clean, to the vegetables we buy at the local farmers' market; nature touches our lives every day," said Alison Bowden of The Nature Conservancy in Massachusetts.

The family-friendly event also features a treasure hunt and a contest to win tickets to Earthfest in May.

Also going on at the Frog Pond from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. is the "Down:2:Earth" event. Local vendors will offer information on green living in the city and an arts and crafts workshop that uses recycled materials will be set up.

MICHAEL NAUGHTON
michael.naughton@metro.us

Kids roundup

Charles River Cleanup
Saturday, 9 a.m.
Locations around the Charles River
Boston to Bellingham, MA
Free, 781-788-0007
www.charlesriver.org
For a hands-on approach to Earth Day, look no further than your beloved river which doesn't fit the "love that dirty water" slogan as much any more because of recent cleanup efforts. Groups of all ages will pick up trash from one of 100 sites along the 80 miles of the Charles in greater Boston.

Party for the Planet
Sunday, 10 a.m.
Franklin Park Zoo
1 Franklin Park Road, Boston
Free with regular zoo admission, 617-989-2000
franklinparkzoo.org
Join the animals in this celebration of the earth at the Franklin Park Zoo with a full schedule of animal shows. Watch a tiger and lion receive treats, learn about animals on our planet and watch entertainment by environmental groups including the Green Rockers and POP Alert.

Sakura & World Museum Project
Friday, 6 p.m.
Children's Museum
308 Congress St., Boston
Free with museum admission, 617-426-6500
www.bostonkids.org
The "World Friends Project," started by professor Miyata in Japan is a collaborative online project by children in many places around the world. Come and draw a portrait of yourself, scan it and e-mail to the project headquarters. The portraits will be compiled together with other kids' portraits from different parts of the world.

The Race Against Extinction 5K
Sunday, 11 a.m.
Artesani Park
1234 Soldiers Field Road, Brighton
$25,
theraceagainstextinction.com
Chase away extinction at this 5K on Earth Day with the help of runners of all abilities — from Cheetahs (inexperienced runners) to Kangaroos (parents with strollers). This fun run creates awareness and raises funds for the need to protect our planet's endangered plants and animals.

Blue Discoveries Family Days: Earth Day Celebration
Sunday, 11 a.m.
New England Aquarium
Central Wharf, Boston
Free with museum admission, 617-973-5206
neaq.org
An interactive morning celebrating the "blue planet" through art, science and storytelling. The program offers an up-close, hands-on view of the sea animals which line the walls of the aquarium.

Natick Earth Day Festival
Sunday, 11 a.m.
Natick Common (corner of Routes 27 and 135)
Free, 508-740-9949
www.natickearthday.pbworks.com
Take a short trip into the 'burbs on Earth Day for this festival, which includes highlights such as the Birds of Prey Show, a tree identification walk, plant demonstrations and environmentally conscious lo-

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

▶ The Frog Pond at the Boston Common will be at the center of several Earth Day events Sunday.

cal bands. Come to celebrate earth and stay for the live music and good food.

Calling All Birders!
Saturday, 8 a.m.
Arnold Arboretum
Arborway Gate, Jamaica Plain
Free, 617-384-5209
arboretum.harvard.edu
With spring in full bloom comes birds of all species and sizes. Join staff from the Arnold Arboretum on a bird walk in the gorgeous arboretum just south of Boston to catch a glimpse of migrating birds. No experience necessary, just some enthusiasm!

SMART Gals: Rachel Carson Nature Walk
April 27, 10 a.m.
The Discovery Museums
177 Main St., Acton
Free with museum admission, 978-264-4200
discoverymuseums.org
Teach your child some environmental history on this nature walk for children in honor of Rachel Carson, the famed marine biologist and conservationist. Sponsored by the SMART (Science-Math-Art) Gals series, the walk will recall Carson's accomplishments, including the esteemed Silent Spring, while honoring her enthusiasm for teaching children.

Work for Wildlife: Mass Audubon 6th Annual Statewide Volunteer Day
April 28, 9 a.m.
Multiple locations
Free, 781-259-9500
massaudubon.org
Volunteer your Saturday morning to become one with nature while helping spruce up trails, gardens and other spring cleaning projects. Activities range from light work like planting native wildflowers to more strenuous activities such as clearing brush.

Save the date

Radio 92.9 EarthFest
May 19, 9 a.m.
DCR's Hatch Memorial Shell
Boston,
Free
EarthFest.com
Keep the date open for one of the largest free outdoor concerts in the Boston area, complete with national music acts, exhibits, environmental exhibits... and lots of free samples. The 19th annual Fest will also once again feature Kids Planet, an area that includes a kid's stage and environmental activities. The 2012 performance lineup will be announced tomorrow on their website, so check back then for more info.

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"I believe women will have shared similar life experiences as this cast and certainly will see a little bit of themselves in this season. We get very deep with the women and the experiences they have during their time with us."
JOANN WARD

WHEN THE DATING GETS TOUGH ...

Then matchmaking team Steve and JoAnn Ward are there On their VH1 reality show, 'Tough Love,' which premieres its fourth season this Sunday, the duo corrects the no-nos chronically single women commit

No one ever said dating was easy, but there are quite a few people in the world who are particularly challenged when it comes to landing a mate. Whether too eager to settle for less or too picky about their dating prospects, there are a host of reasons why some ladies are chronically single. But for those women, Steve and JoAnn Ward come to the rescue. In the fourth season of their incredibly successful VH1 reality show, "Tough Love," the Wards take some particularly troubled cases to boot camp in order to help them change their dating ways. We asked JoAnn about how they make love happen.

What do you find to be the most annoying common mistakes that women make on a first date?
Comparing their date to their ex, talking too much about anything. Talk, talk, talk, talk … stop talking! Listen to learn. [When they are] negative about anything. Always be positive. [When they] have too much to drink. Two, at the most three, glasses of wine are plenty — any more and you risk losing control.

What did you want to change from last season to this season?
We really focused on carefully casting this season to bring a blend of women into the mix that have a range of life experience: single moms, divorced women and a few others that surprised us. We felt it would also give an interesting perspective having women of all ages — from the mid-20s through 40s — living together. We hoped that doing this would make the ladies more at ease in getting them to open up more to each other sooner, and it worked.

Do you feel that the women on the show this season represent the archetypes of single women? As if to say, if you're a single women, your problem is likely one of the issues these women have?
I believe women will have shared similar life experiences as this cast and certainly will see a little bit of themselves in this season. We get very deep with the women and the experiences they have during their time with us on VH1's "Tough Love: New Orleans." It plays out on camera, and it even extends beyond. I deeply care for these girls, both past and present, and continue to work with them far after the show airs, offering advice and guidance.

HEIDI PATALANO
heidi.patalano@metro.us

Tips for making an alluring online dating profile

"Rule number one: What you post is what you get. Less is more. Don't give too much information away, just as in real life. You have seconds to sell yourself. You want to demonstrate who you are without sounding too vanilla. Be vanilla with just a hint of cayenne! Keep some mystery to your profile. Be flirty. Keep them guessing, and make them curious, so they will want to learn more about you. Photos are important. We are all visual creatures, but three to five photos are enough, including one headshot, one or two body shots and a couple of you having fun. You want to show your personality, not your narcissism."

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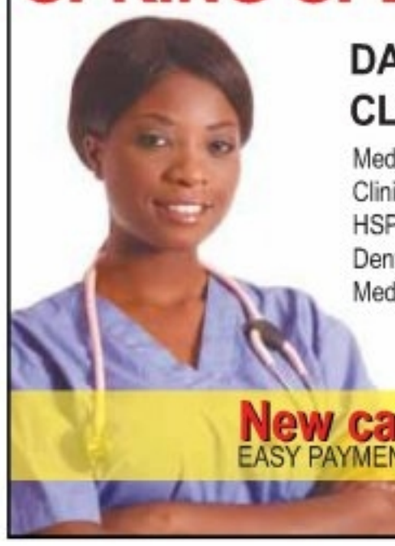

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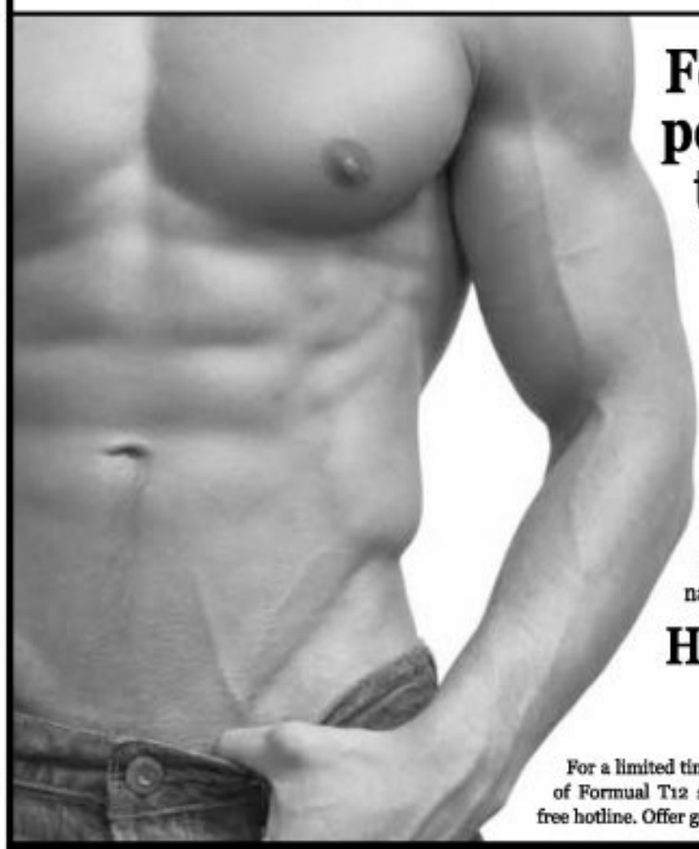
What does he have that you don't?



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COURTESY OF VH1

▶ Mother and son matchmaking team JoAnn and Steve Ward are setting some single ladies straight on "Tough Love: New Orleans," which premieres this Sunday night at 9 p.m. on VH1.

Reader love notes

Send us your love notes

E-mail **lovenotes@metro.us** with your special message. Please keep it to the length of a tweet — 140 characters. We'll print it in next week's dating section for free!

▶ *My favorite aussie - superpsyched to be all caught up so that I can watch "Game of Thrones" with you. Really looking forward to that pillow fight. ;)*

▶ *Harri - get better soon and please stop harassing your dad!*

▶ *Happy Birthday Kimiko! Love you forevs and evs and evs! H-Pants*

▶ ***Martles, I'm so excited that as the warm weather approaches you have warmed my heart once again this year by agreeing to play me in tennis in the mornings before we go to our busy jobs. But maybe this year you and I can get busy in other ways, and maybe "Love" won't just be the score at the beginning of each tennis match! ;) Let me know if you want to be more than friends, and instead of being two singles, we can be a deuce! LOL!***

Bariatric Surgery – Weight Loss and Much More

Dr. Scott Shikora
Director, Center for Metabolic Healthand Bariatric Surgery, Brigham and Women's Hospital

Although bariatric surgery has proven to be an effective and lasting treatment for morbid obesity, mounting evidence suggests that the benefits go far beyond weight loss.

According to Dr. Scott Shikora, Director, Center for Metabolic Health and Bariatric Surgery at Brigham and Women's Hospital, the ultimate goals of weight loss surgery should be the health benefits, not just the weight loss. He explains that most of us are aware that bariatric surgery can lead to dramatic weight loss and a corresponding increase in self-esteem, but many of us don't realize how many metabolic diseases and conditions can be effectively treated through weight loss surgery.

Shikora and his peers are thus trying to raise awareness about the breadth of weight loss surgery's benefits. "The field is now more focused on the health benefits of weight loss surgery," says Dr. Shikora. "We talk to patients about the health benefits first, and then we talk about weight loss."

Less Weight Equals Better Health

Weight loss surgery, like other weight loss methods, is important for treating heart disease, depression, asthma, infertility in women, osteoarthritis, and gout. However, bariatric surgery is also believed to be particularly effective at treating metabolic conditions such as type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, fatty liver disease, and obstructive sleep apnea – and in some cases, such as type 2 diabetes, independent of weight loss.

"Gastric bypass, in particular, has been shown to be extraordinary in its ability to improve or even cure diabetes," says Dr. Shikora. He explains that over 80 percent of patients with type 2 diabetes can expect to leave the hospital with normal blood sugars and be off all their medications within days of surgery.

Furthermore, a recent Swedish study has shown that obese patients who undergo bariatric surgery are less likely to die from a heart attack or stroke than those patients who undergo more conventional treatment for their weight condition.

"Quite simply," explains Dr. Shikora, "I'm convinced that, overall, qualified candidates who opt to have bariatric surgery end up living longer and having a better quality of life."

A Team Effort

Dr. Shikora's team, one of the most experienced in New England, features surgeons, dietitians, physician assistants, psychologists, and nurses who specialize in caring for weight loss surgery patients. They also collaborate closely with other departments within the hospital to provide comprehensive preoperative, surgical, and postoperative care.

For more information about bariatric surgery at Brigham and Women's Hospital, call 1-800-BWH-9999 or visit www.brighamandwomens.org/weightlosss urgery.

BWH BRIGHAM AND WOMEN'S HOSPITAL

Thinking about Weight Loss Surgery?

Join Us for a Free Information Session

From left: Dr. David Lautz, Dr. Ashley Vernon, Dr. Malcolm Robinson, Dr. Scott Shikora, Dr. Jooyuen Chung and Dr. Ali Tavakkoli

If you are thinking about weight loss surgery and have questions, come to a free information session provided by the Center for Metabolic Health and Bariatric Surgery at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Faulkner Hospital. Our experienced team will discuss weight loss surgery options, the latest surgical treatments and dietary support, and will answer questions on costs and insurance.

Free Information Sessions

Tuesday, April 24 and Tuesday, May 8, 6-8 p.m.
Brigham and Women's Hospital
75 Francis Street, Boston

Wednesday, May 2 and Wednesday, May 16 (in Spanish), 6-8 p.m.
Faulkner Hospital
1153 Centre Street, Jamaica Plain

To register for the free information session, call (617) 732-8500.
You can also learn more by visiting **www.brighamandwomens.org/weightlosssurgery**

BWH BRIGHAM AND WOMEN'S HOSPITAL
Center for Metabolic Health and Bariatric Surgery

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Letters

letters@metro.us

War on women real; rap music crisis not

RE: "DEMS CREATED THE PHONY WOMEN WAR": Rocco Lore seems to think Republicans actively restricting women's health care, pay and control over their own lives doesn't constitute a "war on women." Indeed, his supposed counterexamples (rap music and Sharia law) are too silly to bother with. Sorry, Mr. Lore, but there is a war on, and you aren't on the side of the angels on this one.
JOSEPH CONNELL, VIA E-MAIL

Calvin & Hobbes vote Republican

RE: "MILLIONS OF PEOPLE FIGHT SIMILAR BATTLES EVERY DAY WHILE ALSO WORRYING ABOUT FEEDING THEIR KIDS": I thank Mr. J D Ducas for recommending my letters be printed every day. Unfortunately, he has the wrong idea about the GOP platform. I guess he thinks that the Democratic platform for putting everybody on the government teet is a great idea. I believe Professors Calvin & Hobbes most likely had the Democrats in mind.
IGOR MANNIKUS, VIA E-MAIL

Child slavery is still a major problem

I am writing in response to the documentary about the sugar that the U.S. imports from the Dominican Republic. The workers cutting the cane are being held in slave-like conditions and being paid next to nothing while working in the sweltering heat. They are crammed in military barracks and corralled with barbed wire. Kids are also involved in the back-breaking work.
JEREMY BLACKWOOD, VIA E-MAIL

"What is our price to single out other Americans?"

RE: "IF YOU RAISE TAXES ON THE RICH ... YOU CAN START TO REBUILD THE COUNTRY'S INFRASTRUCTURE": Obama's desperate attempt to justify his higher capital gains tax beliefs stems back to the lashing he took on this subject during his debate with Hillary Clinton! Clinically obsessed with being right, Obama is trying to find some level at which fellow Americans will turn on those in the higher tax bracket. It kind of reminds me of a joke where a guy asks a girl if she would sleep with him for a million dollars. She agrees, and he says: "How about $100?" She responds: "What kind of girl do you think I am?" He says: "We already know that, now we are trying to establish a price." What is our price to single out other Americans? If we allow Obama to lure us into accepting increased taxes of those who are already paying a lion's share of our tax revenues, then we deserve a cancer-like government that will eventually kill the host!
JOSEPH DUPONT, VIA E-MAIL

You guys are so naive. If Metro had printed my whole letter instead of a snippet — unlike printing all the hogwash you sent — it would be clear that the government only creates government jobs. Unfortunately, there would still be no change for you guys from Occupy Wall Street. If you believe what you wrote, I have a timeshare for two box seats at the Colosseum in Rome you can have for $10 bucks apiece. **ALAN JACOBS VIA E-MAIL**

E-mail your letters: **letters@metro.us**

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words.
Metro reserves the right to edit all letters.
Please include your name and contact information.

Horoscope

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** You'll have more direct control over conditions that affect you personally in this current cycle. This makes it a good time to begin rearranging things to comply with your timetable.

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** Chances are you'll be much luckier if you don't attempt to do things in a severely structured fashion. Keep plenty of room available for some friendly influences to operate.

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** Your hopes and expectations have better-than-usual chances of being fulfilled at this point in time, provided they are based on practical thinking and not just wishful hopes.

♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** Because you're in a fortuitous achievement cycle currently, everything you can set your mind to can be accomplished. Your success is based on a strong belief in yourself.

♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** Although you might not realize it right now, something that you've long been futilely hoping for is likely to come your way at last, even if in a somewhat backhanded manner. Trust in the fates.

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** Even though it might not be totally apparent, the ideas you're espousing are winning you the respect or your contemporaries.

♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** Agreements into which you enter at this point in time that are based on trying to be fair to everybody have very good probabilities for producing mutual benefits for everybody involved.

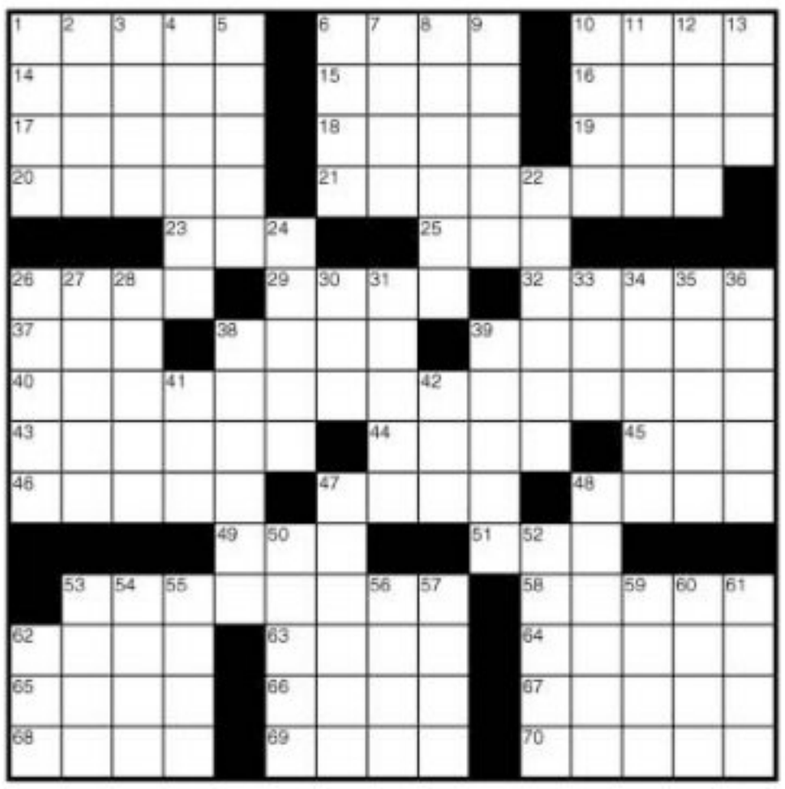
♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** The most substantial gains you're likely to enjoy today will, in all probability, come about through joint endeavors that have solid foundations upon which success can be built.

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** It behooves you to let your heart rule your head in terms of decision-making. Usually this is an unwise course to follow, but if conditions warrant it, it will be the way to go.

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** Devote your energies at this time to projects that are labors of love, and you can make this a very productive day. When you like doing something, the results can be outstanding.

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** Someone who has never done so before may offer you some kind of small gift of special consideration. If you believe that he or she has no ulterior motive, feel free to accept.

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** The payoff is much closer than you realize regarding an endeavor on which you've been working a long time. The returns could actually be much larger than you had anticipated, as well. **BERNICE BEDE OSOL**



Across
1 Shuts with a bang
6 Endow with power
10 Lover of Aeneas
14 Rustic abode
15 Finished
16 Sheik colleague
17 Entertain
18 Olin or Horne
19 Fast talk
20 Swim
21 Go north for the summer
23 Onassis nickname
25 Genetic strand
26 Yellow jacket
29 Count on
32 Math term
37 Blow away
38 Designer __ Chanel
39 Adds a lane
40 Burroughs work (4 wds.)
43 Striped animals
44 Uno y dos
45 Prefix for center
46 Hard to climb
47 China's place
48 Leap in a tutu
49 Uh cousins
51 "Little piggie"
53 Gift or grant
58 Academic rookies
62 Four-letter guarantee
63 Blanch
64 Book leaf
65 Jai __
66 Piccadilly statue
67 Abrasive mineral
68 Thin coating
69 Black mark
70 Update a watch

Down
1 Nature's bandage
2 Sand mandala builder
3 Lean against
4 Minor accident
5 Display disdain
6 Meadow rodent
7 Poet's twilights
8 Guard
9 Gown feature
10 __ vu
11 Not orig.
12 Dumpy bar
13 Mine yield
22 Fluctuates
24 Hair curlers
26 Power units
27 Be ready for
28 Suit material
30 Environmental prefix
31 Artists' pads
33 ONU's home-town
34 Plains abode
35 Clueless
36 Davis of "Evening Shade"
38 Fabled flier
39 Bread ingredient
41 Alphabet ender
42 __ -Star Pictures
47 Teeming
48 Composer __ Kern
50 Wields a lasso
52 Bid
53 South Seas paradise
54 Footnote abbr. (2 wds.)
55 Carpenter's wedge
56 Matty or Felipe
57 For fear that
59 Pamplona shouts
60 Royal honorific
61 Knuckleballer __ Wilhelm
62 Dolt

	4	9	2	5	7			
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			6	1	5	2	7	

SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

		7		3				
8		3			1			
1	6		5		2			9
7						5		4
	4	1				8	7	
9		5						3
4			1		3		6	7
			6			4		2
				9		3		

SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

Solution to yesterday's crossword

I	H	O	P	■	G	M	E	N	■	S	T	O	R	E
L	E	G	O	■	R	I	S	E	■	E	A	G	E	R
E	A	R	P	■	E	C	C	E	■	C	L	E	F	S
S	T	E	L	L	A	R	■	D	A	R	K	E	S	T
■	■	■	A	E	S	O	P	■	D	E	B	■	■	■
S	T	U	R	D	Y	■	H	A	I	T	I	A	N	S
E	R	N	S	T	■	C	A	P	E	■	G	R	I	T
E	O	S	■	O	P	O	S	S	U	M	■	E	S	A
P	O	E	T	■	E	P	E	E	■	O	W	N	E	R
S	P	R	I	N	T	E	R	■	M	O	H	A	I	R
■	■	■	J	O	E	■	S	A	U	D	I	■	■	■
R	O	G	U	I	S	H	■	K	E	S	T	R	E	L
A	L	I	A	S	■	E	R	R	S	■	M	U	S	E
M	I	L	N	E	■	F	O	O	L	■	A	S	T	A
S	O	D	A	S	■	T	O	N	I	■	N	E	A	P

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

SUDOKU SOLUTIONS: **WWW.METRO.US/PUZZLES**

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food & drink

Atmosphere and taste are the top priorities at Avila

AVILA, MODERN MEDITERRANEAN RESTAURANT & BAR

▶ The shades of yellow in Avila are soothing no matter what time of day you dine there.

Nosh On

LINDA LABAN

LINDA.LABAN@METRO.US

Avila's pretty color palette of mellow yellows gives the restaurant a lemony glisten when it opens for Sunday brunch. At night, the room has a soft amber glow. Sitting discreetly on the corner of Stuart and Charles Street South, though modern and simple in design, Avila has a classic elegance. And that goes for Chef Rodney Murillo's pan-Mediterranean menu too.

Over Avila's six-year life, some specialties have stuck around: A luscious Valencian paella stuffed with seafood, chorizo and chicken; haloumi cheese baked with dates and finished with ouzo and roasted cashew nuts; and the welcoming bread and tahini-rich hummus, olives and caponata are unmissable staples.

If there's one item to not pass by, it's Avila's truffled mac and cheese. This dish is too often loud and vulgar; heavy with too much truffle oil and dairy fat. But Murillo's is dreamy-creamy, poignantly scented with truffle and seasoned rather than overburdened with cheese. It's hard to find better truffled mac and cheese than this one.

This knowing restraint really shines throughout the menu. It's not "less is more"; there's nothing lacking in a white-striped bass sitting on a waxy potato cake, topped with a fecund tomato, black olive, caper and oregano salsa before its placed in a generous pool of tangy beurre blanc. But there's nothing extraneous either. Balance is no easy feat, but it's well practiced at Avila.

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages.

Taste of the nation

Tonight, Avila's Rodney Murillo joins Gordon Hamersley, Jody Adams, and a host of culinary and cocktail glitterati for this year's Taste of the Nation Boston. The event raises funds for Share Our Strength's No Kid Hungry campaign, which aims to end childhood hunger. (One hundred percent of ticket sales is donated to the cause.)

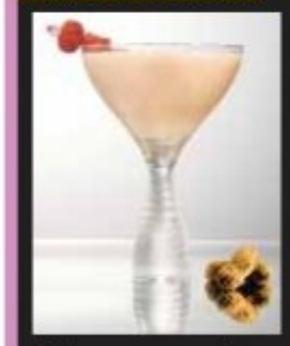
Taste of the Nation Boston 2012: April 19
Tickets $95, VIP $150
Hynes Convention Center, 900 Boylston St., Boston.
1-877-26TASTE.
www.strength.org/boston

If you go

Avila
Entrees: $23-$31
One Charles Street South, Boston
617-267-4810
www.avilarestaurant.com

▶ Murillo participates in Taste of the Nation tonight.

Try this cocktail



Nuts and Berries

What's in it
1 oz. Van Gogh PB&J
½ oz. Berry liqueur
½ oz. Milk or cream

How to make it
Combine ingredients in a shaker with ice. Strain into a chilled martini glass and garnish with raspberries.

Wait, PB&J? Really?
Yes, that would be peanut butter and raspberry jelly. Like a lot of the throwback vodkas that have hit the shelves recently (Three Olives' Froot Loop-inspired bottle; Pinnacle's take on Swedish Fish), this one smells of a childhood gone wrong. But PB&J vodka tastes less desperate than it smells. There's a distinctly berry flavor that doesn't seem so out of place in a cocktail, and the peanut butter plays it sweet, smooth and subtle enough. Now, do you want to drink this straight? Probably not, try the suggested cocktail above instead.

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TAG theater & arts guide

MUSIC

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Saturday May 19, 2012 8:00 pm
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hot tickets

Whiskey, 'Women and Work'

Hard livin' and hard drinkin' band may have (gasp!) made a mature album Guitarist and singer both discuss the band's new approach

BRANTLEY GUTIERREZ

Wait, didn't Lucero recently become an eight-piece band? That looks like nine people.

Beer-soaked, bourbon-bruised and heavy-hearted, Lucero have always stumbled beautifully across the boundaries of country, rock and punk. They sing about the girls they've loved and lost, and all the miles they've traveled and drinks they've downed trying to forget them.

On their recent release, "Women and Work," they continue to wear their hell-bent hearts on their tattooed sleeves. Though there seems to be a new glimmer of hope in their songs when it comes to the "Women," in reality it's the "Work" that defines Lucero as a band. Averaging more than 200 days a year on the road, the idea of holding down a relationship isn't exactly easy.

On the title track of the new record, singer Ben Nichols seems to sum up the disparities with the words: "One shot of women/one shot of work/one shot is sweeter/but they both can hurt."

"It's funny," says guitarist Brian Venable. "Ben introduces that song every night and says, 'This song is called "Women and Work," it's about whiskey.'"

He laughs at the singer's choice of words.

"It's just a drinking song. In our minds, it's nice to have a lady, but what we do for work is ridiculously amazing, so we'll stick with whiskey."

This month, Lucero celebrate their 14th year together as a band, an achievement that Venable seems quite aware of.

"I made a comment that this is our most mature record, and sometimes that's a dirty word in rock 'n' roll," he says. "But for us, we're more comfortable saying 'Hey, this is what we like.' We're not going to make 'Tennessee' [the band's second album] over and over again. We're trying to become part of the Memphis music scene.'"

Lucero
with J. Roddy Walston and the Business
Tonight, 9
The Paradise
967 Comm. Ave., Boston
$18, 800-745-3000
www.livenation.com

NOLAN GAWRON
letters@metro.us

'Tennessee' to Memphis

Doubling in size from a four-piece to an eight-piece, Lucero recently enlisted Rick Steff (piano/organ/accordion), Todd Beene (pedal steel) and Jim Spake and Scott Thompson (horns) to create a more fleshed-out, big-band, honky-tonk, Memphis-soul kind of sound.

"For me, it's a conscious combination of the Sun Studios and Stax Studios sounds," says Nichols. "The horns can be soulful, but they can also be the sound of early rock 'n' roll. I wanted to incorporate my love of early R&B and early rock 'n' roll in a more overt way, and that is Memphis. By taking what we have always done and integrating a great Memphis piano player and horns as well as pedal steel, I think we were able to make a kind of country soul record that hopefully just sounds like rock 'n' roll. I think there is a sheer enjoyment and appreciation of having such great musicians in my band. I'm having more fun playing now than I ever have before. And that is mainly because of the guys I'm playing music with."

Tickets

One Direction

On sale soon

Volbeat
with Hellyeah, Iced Earth
June 21
House of Blues
(On sale Friday)

One Direction
June 26
Comcast Center
(On sale Saturday)

Afrojack
June 27
House of Blues
(On sale Friday)

Yes/Procol Harum
July 21
Bank of America Pavilion
(On sale Friday)

Wiz Khalifa/ Mac Miller
Aug. 1
Comcast Center
(On sale Friday)

311
with Slightly Stoopid, SOJA
Aug. 4
Comcast Center
(On sale Saturday)

Def Leppard
with Poison, Lita Ford
Aug. 18
Comcast Center
(On sale Saturday)

Also onstage

fun.

Saturday, 7 p.m.
House of Blues
15 Lansdowne St., Boston
$20-$22, 888-693-2583
www.livenation.com

It's about time this gloriously bombastic New York band scored a hit with "We Are Young," but it's not because they're finally hitting their stride. They hit their stride years ago in their old bands, The Format and Steel Train. They've hit a double stride, which, by the laws of rock 'n' roll physics, makes them twice as awesome. They'll set the world on fire, and they can go brighter than the sun!

fun. show Celtic pride.

Death Cab for Cutie

Saturday, 7:30 p.m.
Citi Wang Center
270 Tremont St., Boston
$40-$60, 866-348-9738
www.citicenter.org

We saw Ben Gibbard and Co. play for 100 people back in the late '90s at the Middle East, or TT's or wherever, but we're not grumbling: We could never

have kept them to ourselves — besides, those were their lo-fi days, and the spacey, panoramic, Brian Eno-influenced sound they've been perpetrating recently perfectly befits a venue like the Wang.

MATTHEW DINARO

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3

Seeking DC dominance

Bruins look to take two games in nation's capital ◗ Series starting to get quite chippy ◗ Caps without Backstrom ◗ Will Bruins style change after Dale Hunter's comments?

Three things to look for as the Bruins take on the Capitals in Washington tonight (7:30, NESN):

No Backstrom for Game 4

As the final horn sounded in Game 3, Capitals forward Nicklas Backstrom approached Bruins forward Rich Peverley, raised his stick, and cross-checked him in the face. Backstrom received a match penalty, meaning that he would automatically be suspended for the next game, pending league review. Well the league spoke, and the suspension was upheld. That means the Caps, down 2-1 in the series, will be without their fifth-highest regular season points leader and one of the top performers this series. The B's are in the driver's seat, while the Caps are undermanned. If they "capitalize" on the situation, they'll be up 3-1 in the series heading back to Boston.

Top lines not producing

What do Milan Lucic, David Krejci, Brad Marchand, and Tyler Seguin all have in common, aside from playing on the top two lines? None of them have registered a single point through the first three games of the series. One goal from Rich Peverley and one assist from Patrice Bergeron are the only two points the top two forward lines have mustered up. Sure, Lucic and Marchand brought some much needed emotion to Game 3, but they'll need to break through at some point. The Bruins have been lucky to win two games with little production at the top — but it'll only last so long.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Zdeno Chara was sharp in Game 3.

Chiarelli does it again

Last season, Bruins GM Peter Chiarelli brought on Chris Kelly and Rich Peverley before the trade deadline. Those two players came up huge in the Bruins' run for the Cup, totaling 13 and 12 points, respectively. This postseason, those two players have again started off strong, both scoring a goal, while Kelly has tacked on two assists. But they aren't the only midseason acquisitions contributing in the 2011-12 postseason. Brian Rolston and Greg Zanon were both acquired at the deadline this season, and wasted no time contributing this spring. Already, a rejuvenated Rolston has a goal and two assists, and Zanon has one assist.

Quoted

"Zdeno is as good as you'll get as a defenseman, but when it comes to playoff time, Seids isn't that far behind him, if at all. He's been a really good player for us."

BRUINS HEAD COACH CLAUDE JULIEN ON DENNIS SEIDENBERG

JIMMY TOSCANO
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In the news

Tito at Fenway

Former Red Sox manager Terry Francona will attend Friday's 100th anniversary of Fenway Park celebration, reversing course on what he said last week.

Francona originally said he would decline the Red Sox invite due to the way his tenure as Sox manager ended last season.

Arguably the most popular manager in franchise history, Francona told ESPN yesterday that he believes he owes it to the fans to show up.

Jacoby Ellsbury told ESPN, "I think Red Sox fans and players will give (Francona) a good reception. It will be a good day for Boston sports. He won two World Series and built relationships here through the years."

Fantasy sports

ADAM LEVITAN
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EARLY INJURIES STRIKE IN MLB, THE UPHILL CLIMB BEGINS

These hockey tough guys take pucks off their knees, punch each other in the head and slash each other with sticks. Then, they go back out there looking for more.

For a noncontact sport, baseball players end up hurt at a relatively high rate. And the start of this season has been no different.

Speed to burn

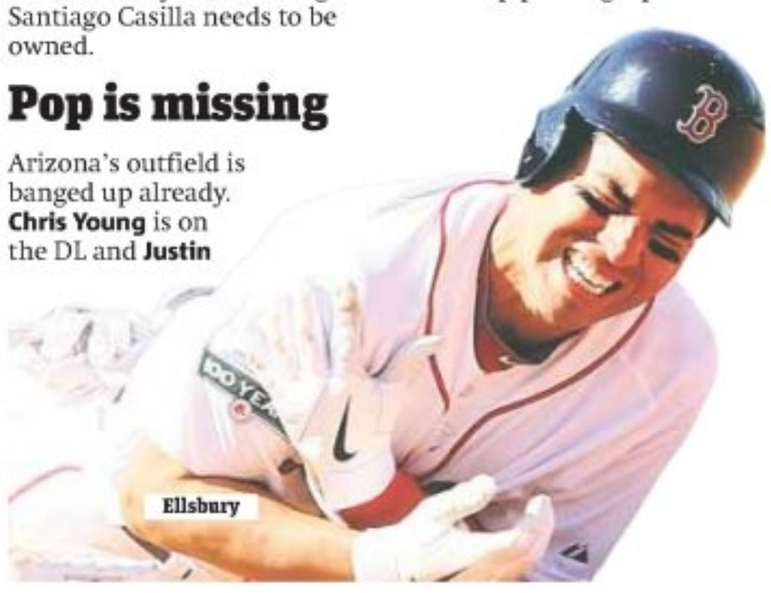
Jacoby Ellsbury damaged his shoulder while trying to do what he does best — steal a bag. He'll miss at least six weeks, leaving a gaping hole for owners in the speed category. Never fear, however. We can get by in the short-term with waiver guys like Gerardo Parra, Juan Pierre, Jordan Schafer and Dee Gordon.

Mr. Wilson

Not paying for saves on draft day is the right play for a reason. **Brian Wilson** (elbow) is done for the year, meaning Santiago Casilla needs to be owned.

Pop is missing

Arizona's outfield is banged up already. **Chris Young** is on the DL and **Justin Upton** could soon be joining him. Power is hard to come by cheaply, so we'll have to take a beating in average to get it. But Lucas Duda and Cody Ross will keep packing a punch.



Ellsbury

Baseball waivers

Early-season pickups can pay huge dividends later on:

1. **Zack Cozart, SS, CIN** — The former second-round pick is entering his prime at age 26 and finally playing every day.
2. **Nolan Reimold, OF, BAL** — A post-hype kind of sleeper that is locked into the leadoff spot.

NFL news

Raider rock

In seven games with Carson Palmer last season, **Darrius Heyward-Bey** racked up 37 catches for 541 yards and three touchdowns. The bust label is gone and the arrow is pointing up. There's a lot of midround value here.

1 NBA player averaging at least one block, one steal and one 3-pointer. It's Kevin Durant, and he is fantasy's MVP this season.

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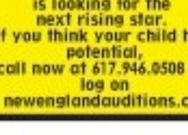
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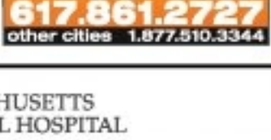
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